



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.8, is being sent via Facsimile at 703-746-7239 and also deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Date: April 5, 2002

By: Luigi J. Mascari

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Technology Center 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In re application of: Burke et al.

Docket No.: 32277.0200

Serial No.: 09/267,176

Group Art Unit: 2166

Filed: March 12, 1999

Examiner: Morgan, R.

Title: **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A
UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.115**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-0001

Commissioner:

Applicant hereby responds to the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2001 in the above-referenced patent application. A Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) was filed on March 5, 2002. **This response is being filed by facsimile with a confirmatory copy being sent via first class mail.**

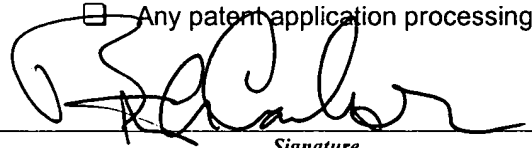
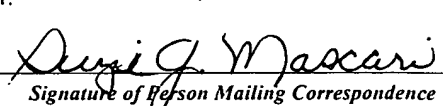
Please amend the above-referenced application as follows, and consider the following

remarks:

04/17/2002 GGEBREGI 00000113 192814 09267176

01 FC:103 180.00 CH

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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)				Docket No. 32277.0200	
Applicant(s): Burke, et al.					
Serial No. 09/267,176	Filing Date March 12, 1999	Examiner R. Morgan	Group Art Unit 2166		
Invention: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM					
<u>TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>				RECEIVED APR 18 2002 Technology Center 2100	
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	41 -	31 =	10 x	\$18.00	\$180.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	3 -	3 =	0 x	\$84.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$180.00
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-2814 in the amount of \$180.00 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2814 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.					
 Signature			Dated: April 5, 2002		
Brett A. Carlson, Reg. No. 39,928 Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. One Arizona Center 400 East Van Buren Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202 (602) 382-6236 (602) 382-6070 (Facsimile) bacarlson@swlaw.com					
I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on April 5, 2002 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. <div style="text-align: center;">  Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence Suzie G. Mascari Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence </div>					
CC:					